

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01770 242236 Z

72

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 AID-20 PC-15 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 RSR-01 /143 W

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R 242131 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4122

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EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: GOVT CLAIMS STREET INCIDENTS ARE PART OF SUBVERSIVE PLAN

REF: SANTIAGO 1572

1. SUMMARY. GOVT CONTINUES TO DENOUNCE EXISTENCE OF SUBVERSIVE PLAN ALLEGEDLY HATCHED BY RIGHT- WING OPPOSITION IN COOPERATION WITH EXTREME LEFT, AND CITES SEVERAL RECENT INCIDENTS AS INTEGRAL PARTS OF THIS " CONSPIRACY." END SUMMARY.

2. GOVT SPOKESMEN AND PRO- UP MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO STRESS CLAIMS OF OPPOSITION- INSPIRED CONSPIRACY, IN COOPERATION WITH EXTREME LEFT, TO SUBVERT PUBLIC ORDER AND POSSIBLY TO INSTIGATE ANOTHER NATIONAL SHUTDOWN SIMILAR TO LAST OCTOBER. TO BUTTRESS THEIR ARGUMENT, THEY CITE RECENT EVENTS:

(A) SEVERAL HUNDRED CONTRACT WORKERS SEIZED MAIN OFFICES OF MINISTRY PUBLIC WORKS FOR SEVERAL HOURS APRIL 23 TO DEMAND PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT BY MINISTRY. PRESIDENT ALENDE, WHO PERSONALLY MET WITH WORKERS, LATER DESCRIBED SEIZURE AS " SHAMEFUL AND COWARDLY . . . SINCE WORKERS KNOW WE WILL NOT USE REPRESSIVE TACTICS AGAINST THEM."

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01770 242236 Z

(B) HEAD OF CHE GUEVARA STATUE IN SANTIAGO COMMUNE OF SAN MIGUEL BLOWN OFF WITH EXPLOSIVES EARLY EASTER MORNING, LEADING WAGS TO COMPARE INCIDENT TO RECENT NOTORIOUS MURDER CASE IN WHICH VICTIM WAS DECAPITATED. UNDERSEC INTERIOR VERGARA BLAMED OPPOSITION " FASCISTS AND REACTIONARIES."

(C) SLUM- DWELLERS BLOCKED TWO HIGHWAYS IN SANTIAGO APRIL 20 IN PROTEST OVER GOVT' S FAILURE TO SOLVE THEIR HOUSING PROBLEM. VERGARA CHARGED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS HAD " DECEIVED" POBLADORES INTO TAKING ACTION.

(D) TWO OTHER SIMILAR ROAD BLOCKADE INCIDENTS OCCURRED APRIL 16 AND 18, AND RESIDENTS OF OUTLYING SUBURB PUENTO ALTO STAGED ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OVER LACK OF BASIC FOODSTUFFS.

3. STUDENT CLASHES IN CHILLAN, CAPITAL OF NUBLE PROVINCE, BETWEEN OPPOSITION PARTISANS AND GROUP ALLEGEDLY LED BY MIR, HAVE CONTINUED INTERMITTENTLY FOR TWO WEEKS. ONE INCIDENT REVOLVED AROUND PRESENCE OF NINE CUBAN SAILORS FROM SHIP WHICH HAD JUST DELIVERED A " VOLUNTARY" CUBAN DONATION OF SUGAR TO CHILE.

4. IN WAKE OF ROAD BLOCKADE OF CONSTITUTION IN MAULE PROVINCE (REFTEL) API GOVERNOR WAS REPLACED AND BLOCKADE LIFTED. DR. LUIS ESCOBAR, API DEPUTY- ELECT FOR MAULE AND ONE OF ONLY TWO SUCCESSFUL API CANDIDATES IN MAR 4 ELECTION, PUBLICLY RESIGNED FROM PARTY FOR ITS FAILURE TO RALLY AROUND OUSTED GOVERNOR.

5. COMMENT. GOVT REGULARLY SEES SUBVERSIVE CONSPIRACY BEHIND MANIFESTATIONS OF DISCONTENT.
DAVIS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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